

Critical care medicine consumes a significant proportion of our health care expenditures, representing 13 percent of all hospital costs, with the total costs of critical care services in the U.S. exceeding \$80 billion annually.

Despite the significant role critical care medicine plays in providing high quality health care and its impact on health care costs, it is often not understood as a distinct specialty posing intense challenges in the health care system—from workforce shortages, poorly coordinated outcomes research and challenges in providing appropriate care at the end of a patient's life.

If we are to reduce costs and improve the quality of medical care, it is also important to consider and assess the unique demands of critical care medicine. That is why I have introduced the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act of 2011, which would ensure our critically ill and injured patients continue to receive the highest quality care by identifying gaps in the current critical care delivery model and bolstering capabilities to meet future demands.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the dedicated professionals who care for the sickest patients and their families, and commemorate Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month by cosponsoring the Critical Care Assessment and Improvement Act.

TRIBUTE TO CEDRIC ALLEN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cedric Allen, a leader in helping to support struggling families and an instrumental person in the battle against premature births, birth defects, and unhealthy pregnancies. Cedric lives in Allen, Texas, a suburb just north of Dallas, and serves as a security officer at the Trammel Crow Center in downtown Dallas.

During his high school years in Mansfield, Louisiana, Cedric had a brief interaction with the March of Dimes. Throughout the progression of his adulthood he saw many people that he knew personally have premature births. It was then that Cedric knew that he had to make a difference. He rose to become an advocate for the March of Dimes. Raising over \$250,000 for the March of Dimes foundation, Cedric has become the top individual fundraiser for the March of Dimes Dallas Division for the past 14 years. Cedric has also been ranked as the no. 4 walker in the state of Texas and ranks 12th in the nation.

Cedric understands the importance of research for pregnancies and infant health. Prematurity is the leading cause of death before one year of age. 1 out of 7 babies are born prematurely in Texas each year compared to 1 out of 8 babies throughout the U.S.

Premature birth can have lifelong consequences including cerebral palsy, hearing, vision and breathing problems.

Cedric continues to work towards advancing research and community programs belonging to the March of Dimes. Hundreds have benefited from Cedric's tireless efforts at fundraising and his many other contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in joining his friends and colleagues to salute an extraordinary leader, Cedric Allen.

IN MEMORY OF LAURA KAVAZANJIAN

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of an outstanding young woman in my congressional district whose life was cut short in a tragic car accident on May 28th. Laura Kavazanjian of East Setauket, New York, was only 27 years old but already she was committed to making a difference in the lives of others.

Laura had recently completed a master's degree in international education policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education that focused on access to education for marginalized girls. She valued her own education and was passionate about creating opportunities for young women in the developing world to have the same access to learning.

After earning her undergraduate degree from Brown University, Laura worked as a program officer for the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative in Mumbai, India designing and implementing a care and support program for more than 4,000 children living with HIV. She also conducted research in Malawi and worked for Save the Children and CARE for the Power to Lead Alliance, a program aimed at developing leadership among adolescent girls in six countries. Laura was on her way home from her five-year reunion at Brown with her fiancé, David Reidy, when the car accident occurred.

In addition to her academic prowess, Laura was also a leader on the athletic fields, and played field hockey at Ward Melville High School and at Brown. I had the pleasure of meeting her when she worked in my district office as an intern and later on my campaign for re-election to Congress in New York's first district.

Indeed, Laura was a young woman of great promise with the motivation and the ability to realize her laudable goals. She had accomplished much in her short life, and I am sure she would have realized many other achievements.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's first congressional district, I express my heartfelt sorrow to Laura's family, fiancé and friends following this tragic loss. We will always remember Laura Kavazanjian with love and appreciation, and her memory will live on in our hearts.

CONGRATULATING DECA CON- FERENCE CHAMPIONS FROM LIMA SENIOR HIGH PERFORM- ANCE BASED SCHOOL

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the outstanding

achievements of three high school students from my congressional district.

Earlier this month, Lima Senior High Performance Based School seniors Michael Fisher, Casey Reed, and John Willamowski won first place in the Financial Literacy category at the 2011 DECA International Career Development Conference. They joined more than 15,000 DECA students, advisors, and alumni at this four-day international competition—DECA's highest level of competition—in Orlando, Florida.

Their team project, Common Cents, was judged the best from among 160 entrants in that category. As part of their project, they partnered with Lima's Superior Federal Credit Union to teach financial literacy to area kindergarteners. They also coordinated financial education activities at their high school. Their project earned second place in statewide competition, qualifying the team for the international contest.

Michael, who serves as state DECA president, will attend the University of Mount Union in the fall to study sports medicine. Casey plans to continue his education at The Ohio State University, where he will major in business. John looks forward to studying political science and history at Ohio Northern University. I wish them every success in the future and commend them for their hard work—and salute the efforts of their advisor, Chrissy Frobose, who helped them prepare for the national competition.

Mr. Speaker, all of Ohio can take great pride in the performance of these three scholars, who are excellent role models for their peers. They are ideal examples of all that is right in our educational system today, and are to be commended for their outstanding achievement.

OPPOSING THE PATRIOT ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe the United States can secure our communities without sacrificing the rights and liberties that generations of Americans have fought so hard to protect. The PATRIOT Act fails this common sense test, which is why I have consistently opposed it and will vote against the extension of its provisions again today.

The reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act under consideration by the House today extends provisions that give the Federal Government sweeping authority to spy on United States citizens. One such provision allows the government to obtain "any tangible thing" in its anti-terrorism investigation—including library or bookstore records—regardless of its relevance to the case. Another provision allows Federal law enforcement to obtain wiretaps without being required to identify the person, building, or business being spied upon to a secret court. During the Bush Administration, the Justice Department used this authority to illegally wiretap American citizens. Evidence of past abuses demand that the Patriot Act be reformed with stricter oversight and better safeguards to ensure security does not come at the cost of our Constitutional freedoms. Regrettably, the legislation on the floor today does not fix these problem provisions.